

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No. : 10/803,096 Confirmation No. : 5300
Applicant : Walter BAUTZ
Filed : March 18, 2004
TC/A.U. : 3723
Examiner : To Be Assigned
Docket No. : 100975.53348US
Customer No. : 23911
Title : Vertical Processing Center

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 C.F.R § § 1.97 AND 1.98**

Mail Stop Missing Parts
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

August 2, 2004

Sir:

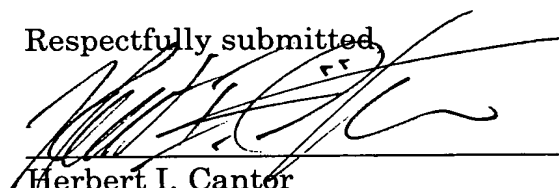
In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicant hereby notifies the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 which the Examiner may deem relevant to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

In compliance with the concise explanation requirement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3) for foreign language documents, Applicant encloses herewith a copy of a German Search Report generated from the priority document and a Search Report generated from the corresponding European application 04005697.0 citing such documents, together with an English-language version of that portion of the Search Reports indicating the degree of relevance found by the foreign office.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits.

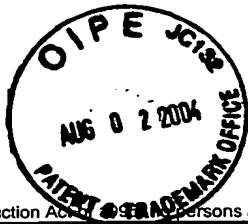
The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,



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PTO/SB/08a (08-03)

Approved for use through 07/31/2006. OMB 0651-0031

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Substitute for form 1449A/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (use as many sheets as necessary)		Complete if Known			
		Application Number	10/803,096		
		Filing Date	March 18, 2004		
		First Named Inventor	Walter BAUTZ		
		Art Unit	3723		
		Examiner Name	To Be Assigned		
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number	100975.53348US

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials'	Cite No. ¹	Document Number		Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)				
	AA	US- 5478300		12-26-1995	MCMURTRY ET AL.	
	AB	US- 4679286		07-14-1987	MOMOI ET AL.	
	AC	US- 3825245		07-23-1974	OSBURN ET AL.	
		US-				
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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
Examiner Initials ¹	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document		Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Country Code ³ -Number ⁴ -Kind Code ⁵ (if known)					
	AD	DE-3505138-A1		11-07-1985	S. MUEVEK		
	AE	DE-8603558.4-U1		03-19-1987	BERNARD STEINEL WERK. GMBH		
	AF	DE-3605470-C2		05-10-1990	YAMAZAKI MACHINERY WORKS, LTD.		
	AG	EP-0539837-B1		01-25-1995	MINGANTI S.P.A.		
	AH	DE-19607001-A1		08-28-1997	CHIRON-WERKE GMBH		
	AI	DE-19936502-C1		02-15-2001	MAGERL, BERNHARD		
	AJ	DE-10145674-A1		12-05-2002	CHIRON-WERKE GMBH		

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. 1 Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). 2 See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. 3 Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). 4 For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. 5 Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. 6 Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.